

## Adopt a Wreath



North Andover Holiday Decorating Committee is seeking \$65 donations

for fresh 4 foot holiday wreaths, adorned with red velvet bows, to be hung on telephone poles on downtown Main Street and the street lights at the Olde Center. The donor's name, business, dedication, or memoriam will be acknowledged on the pole below the wreath. Pole locations are on first come basis. Please send check, wording for acknowledgement, and preferred location to Holiday Decorating Committee, c/o Rosemary Smedile, 65 Greene Street, North Andover, MA 01845

Donations to replace American flags for patriotic observances would also be greatly appreciated. Questions, please call 1-978-689-2949.

## Senior Home Visits

The Senior Center would like to know of any lonely, home-bound seniors in North Andover who would like to have a visitor. The visitor would visit for at least one hour a week and call a few times during the week to stay in touch with the senior. We are also looking for Volunteers to visit these home-bound seniors. This program helps the seniors stay in touch with the community and also helps our volunteers become acquainted with a senior. Please call the Program Coordinator Sandy at 978 688 9560 or email: [sflaherty@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:sflaherty@townofnorthandover.com)

# North Andover

## Community and Business

# NEWSLETTER



## Giving Back To the Community



On August 21, volunteers from L-Com Global Connectivity, a North Andover based business providing wired and wireless connectivity products, spent the morning helping the town with clean-up along the shores of Lake Cochichewick. With trash bags and gloves provided by DPW and a safety escort from the North Andover Police Department, the group of volunteers made their way from the North Pump Station to Rea's Pond collecting trash and debris along the shores and along the roadway. The volunteers continued their work through heavy rain but had to call off the clean-up when thunderstorms moved in. L-Com volunteer Peter McNeil asserted the company's commitment to giving back to the community and said they would be back to finish the work they started. Lake Cochichewick, the town's only drinking water supply, is a valuable resource that deserves the highest protection. Assisting the volunteers were Peter Boynton, the town's volunteer harbormaster and a member of the Planning Board, John Lavin, DPW Senior Foreman, Officer Jason Wedge of the NAPD, and Jennifer Hughes, Conservation Administrator. Other companies or organizations wishing to assist with future organized clean-ups are encouraged to contact DPW or the Conservation Department.



**News from the School Department** — Greetings to all North Andover residents from the new Superintendent of Schools. I am so honored to have been chosen to lead the North Andover Public Schools. In the short time I have been at the helm, I have quickly learned that this is a special community. My entry meetings with individuals and groups have highlighted for me that this town has a strong sense of community and commitment to our schools. I hope to build on that tradition in a manner that maintains pride in our schools and allows us to continue to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

This September we welcomed back 4,783 students to our schools. Over the summer, we were able to complete several necessary projects at our schools. These included upgrading the middle school auditorium and cafeteria; resurfacing the high school track; improving energy efficiencies at Thomson; in addition to our annual summer work of painting, cleaning, and refinishing floors at all of our schools in preparation for the new school year. We also purchased 450 chromebooks that were distributed among our schools based on enrollment, with a particular focus on infusing more technology into our elementary schools. To support the additional laptops, upgrades to infrastructure were made to the network and internet bandwidth. In addition, we moved into our wonderful new Central Office building at 566 Main Street, the site of the former Police Station. The facility is perfect for our needs and the location is fantastic. Community Programs has also moved to this new space. Thank you to the entire town for providing us with this great facility.

If you have not already had a chance to do so, I invite you to take a few minutes to complete my entry survey, which can be found on the North Andover Public Schools website ([www.northandoverpublicschools.com](http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com)). The information from this survey will help me learn about North Andover and allow me to identify the key issues in our schools. I will be reporting out the results of this survey at the November 12, 2015 School Committee meeting.

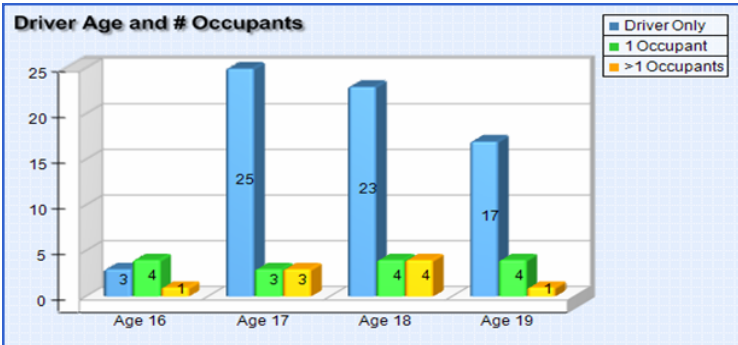
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our schools.

Dr. Jennifer Price

## Junior Operator's License

The North Andover Police Department is extremely proactive in the enforcement of motor vehicle laws and the education of the motoring public. As a result of our enforcement strategies we have noticed a growing trend that is very concerning to us. This article will hopefully address some of our concerns and help us achieve our goal of making the roadways of North Andover the safest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to travel.

Obtaining a driver's license is a milestone marked with excitement and anxiety for both the new driver and their parents/guardians. This new found freedom, for both, comes with great responsibility. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that a new licensee obey a set of rules that are designed to ease their way into driving until they have gained the necessary, behind the wheel experience, that will help make them a safer driver who is both aware and vigilant. The following information is a brief summary of the rules that new drivers need to follow and parents/guardians need to watch for. Remember, driving is a privilege, not a right, and should not be taken lightly.



The Junior Operator Bill was signed into law January 3, 2007. This law is a "graduated license law" in that new, young drivers start out with restrictions that are removed as the driver advances from the "learner's permit" phase, through the "junior operator license" phase, and finally into the "full license" phase. In addition to added restrictions during the "junior operator" phase, the law provides for enhanced penalties for certain motor vehicle offenses, such as speeding, racing, using electronic devices while driving, and any offense involving alcohol or drugs. A driver becomes a "full license" driver when they turn 18 years of age, and the enhanced penalties for some offenses are reduced. The exception to this involves drivers under the age of 21 committing an offense involving alcohol or drugs.

Nearly all junior operator and permit restriction violations involve a minimum fine of \$100.00 and a minimum license suspension of 60 days to 1 year. Some violations carry additional penalties such as a Driver Retraining Course, \$500.00 license reinstatement fee, and the requirement to pass a full road exam before a driver's license is reinstated. These penalties are for first offense violations and will

increase with each additional violation.

During the first six months after receiving their driver's license, junior operators are restricted from operating a motor vehicle while any person under the age of 18, except the junior operator, is in the vehicle. The exception to this restriction is if the person in your vehicle is an immediate family member, or the junior operator is accompanied by a licensed operator, 21 years of age or older, with at least one year of driving experience, and this person occupies the seat beside the junior operator.

Junior operators are restricted from operating a motor vehicle between the hours of 12:30am and 5:00am unless accompanied by a parent. A violation of this restriction is a criminal offense.

Junior operators are prohibited, under the Safe Driver Law, from using cellphones while driving. This includes making or receiving calls, sending or looking at text messages, sending or looking at emails, and anything else that their cellphone is capable of doing. The only time a junior operator can use their cellphone while driving is if they need to report an emergency. Young drivers and their parents/guardians need to obey the rules associated with becoming a newly licensed operator. Adherence to the rules will help ensure that young drivers gain the needed experience in a safe manner, which benefits everyone in the long run.

The statistics below reflect motor vehicle crashes in North Andover from August 1, 2014 through August 13, 2015 involving operators between the ages of 16 and 19. Keep in mind that a person needs to be at least 16 ½ years of age before they can take the road exam for a driver's license.

For more detailed information regarding Massachusetts Permits and Junior Operator Licenses please go to [www.massrmv.com](http://www.massrmv.com) or contact me at [efoulds@napd.us](mailto:efoulds@napd.us).

